

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-10 and 14-16 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent. Claims 6 and 11-13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 16 is newly-presented herein.

Claim 6 was objected to for allegedly not further limiting Claim 1. Without conceding the propriety of the objection, Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 6 are requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 0 734 866 (Ohkuma et al.) in view of European Patent Application No. 1 380 423 (Kubota et al.). Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were rejected under § 103 over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2004-042396 (Kubota (JP)) in view of Kubota et al. Claim 12 was rejected under §§ 102 and 103 as being anticipated by or obvious over Kubota et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Support for the amendments to Claim 1 and certain features in new Claim 16 can be found in the patent publication for this case (US 2007/0132811) at paragraphs [0057] and [0089]. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to these preferred embodiments.

Ohkuma et al. is directed to a process for the production of an inkjet head in which a photosensitive layer comprised of an ionizing radiation decomposable photosensitive resin containing a crosslinkable structural unit is formed on a substrate and subjected to crosslinking treatment to convert the photosensitive layer into a crosslinked photosensitive layer. Ohkuma et al. can utilize a copolymer of methylmethacrylate and methacrylic acid as the photosensitive resin. However, Ohkuma et al. does not disclose or suggest at least a process of intermolecular crosslinking acrylic copolymers, with the number of carboxyl group included in a unit obtained from (meta) acrylic acid in an acrylic copolymer in an acrylic copolymer composition being not more than 20% of the number of carboxyl group used for the intermolecular crosslinking, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 16.

Thus, Ohkuma et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Kubota et al. was cited for teaching the use of a solvent to dissolve the photosensitive material. However, Kubota et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Ohkuma et al. noted above with respect to independent Claims 1 and 16.

Kubota (JP) is directed to a process for manufacturing a liquid ejection head in which a positive photosensitive material layer is formed on a substrate by thermally crosslinking an ester methacrylate, methacrylic acid, and a copolymer. Kubota (JP), however, is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1 and 16 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 16. Dependent Claims 2-5, 8-10, 14, and 15 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark A. Williamson/

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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